

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /018 W

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R 030420Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1243

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BMEP, AF

SUBJECT: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECT: VEHICLES FOR AFGHAN TOURIST  
ORGANIZATION

1. PRESIDENT OF AFGHAN TOURIST ORGANIZATION (ATO) REQUESTED  
MEETING WITH EMBOFF TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING  
APPROXIMATELY 200 VEHICLES FROM U.S. MANUFACTURERS. IN MEETING  
FEBRUARY 1, ATO PRESIDENT STATED HIS FEELING THAT U.S. VEHICLES  
NOW COMPETITIVELY PRICED DUE TO RECENT APPRECIATION OF AFHGANI  
AGAINST DOLLAR AND ATO EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN CONVERTING  
TO ALL U.S. FLEET.

2. FYI: ATO IS GOVERNMENT RUN AND IN PAST HAS HAD SMALL  
BUDGET AND LOW PRIORITY IN GOA PLANNING. ACCORDING ATO PRESIDENT  
TOURISM BEING GIVEN INCREASING EMPHASIS BY GOA AND HAS  
\$38 MILLION BUDGET FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION  
OF TWELVE NEW HOTELS AND PURCHASE NEW EQUIPMENT. ATO  
PRESENTLY HAS 84 VEHICLES OF VARIOUS MANUFACTURE (36 PEUGEOTS,  
12 VOLGAS, 9 VAUXHALLS, 5 TOYOTAS, 12 IRANIAN-MADE NATIONAL  
MINI-BUSES, ETC.). ONLY 46 VEHICLES ARE IN OPERATING CONDITION  
AND WELL OVER 50 PERCENT HAVE LOGGED OVER 100,000 KILOMETERS.  
SPARE PARTS ARE CHRONIC PROBLEM. END FYI.

3. IN NEAR FUTURE ATO WISHES TO PLACE ORDER FROM MANU-  
FACTURER FOR NEW VEHICLES (PRESIDENT MENTIONED WISH FOR  
PURCHASE UNSOLD LATTFVRDSK 1974 VEHICLES AT DISCOUNT).

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FOLLOWING VEHICLES REQUIRED:

100 PASSENGER CARS - FOUR OR SIX PASSENGER  
50 FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES - SIX PASSENGER  
22 FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES - NINE TO TWELVE PASSENGER  
30 MINI-BUSES - 15 PASSENGER  
11 BUSES - 40-45 PASSENGER

ATO WOULD ALSO PURCHASE LARGE QUANTITY OF SPARE PARTS AND PAY  
FOR TRAINING OF MECHANICS. ABOVE ORDER WOULD COVER VEHICLE  
REQUIREMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: USDOC CONTACT AUTO MAKERS WITH ABOVE  
INFO. INTRESTED SUPPLIERS SHOULD SEND SOONEST CATALOGUES  
AND PRICE INFORMATION (FOB FACTORY AND CIF AFGHAN BORDER VIA  
USSR, INSURANCE TO KABUL) TO:

MR. MAHBOOBULLAH SERAJ  
PRESIDENT, AFGHAN TOURIST ORGANIZATION  
SALANG WAT  
KABUL, AFGHANISUN

COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE SENT TO ECONOMIC SECTION,  
AMERICAN EMBASSY, KABUL, US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON  
DC, WPTWP.

ELIOT

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